

Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listing, of claims in the application:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing a location query service for use with a wireless network that tracks locations of network users, the method comprising:
receiving from a requestor a query asking for location information associated with a wireless network user;

determining whether the requestor is authorized to receive the requested location information and, if so, retrieving the location information associated with the wireless network user and forwarding the location information to the requestor;

if the requestor is unauthorized, determining whether the wireless network user will accept requests to release location information to unauthorized users;

if the requestor is unauthorized and the wireless network user is determined not to accept such requests, returning a message to the requestor that the request is denied;

if the requestor is unauthorized and the wireless network user is determined to accept such requests, forwarding to the wireless network user a the requestor identification and a the request for the requestor to receive the location information;

~~receiving from the wireless network user an approval for the requestor to receive the location information;~~

~~retrieving the location information associated with the wireless network user; and~~

if the wireless network user chooses not to release the requested location information to the unauthorized requestor, returning a message to the requestor that the request is denied; and

if the wireless network user chooses to release the requested location information to the unauthorized user, retrieving the location information associated with the wireless network user and forwarding the location information to the requestor.

2. (Cancelled)

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the identification is one of a user name, a telephone number, an Internet address, and an email address.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving and forwarding comprise communications over a global computer network.
5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein receiving and forwarding comprise communications over a Public Switched Telephone Network.
6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the location information comprises identifying a wireless device associated with the wireless network user and determining a location of the wireless device.
7. (Original) The method claim 1, further comprising translating the location information from raw form to displayable form.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the location information comprises using a location system to determine the location of a network device associated with the wireless network user.
9. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein retrieving the location information comprises consulting a location database that is periodically updated by a location system.
- 10-12. (Cancelled)
13. Currently Amended) A system for providing a location query service with a wireless network in communication with a plurality of wireless network devices, the system comprising:

a location system in communication with the wireless network, the location system providing location information associated with the plurality of wireless network devices; and

a location server in communication with the wireless network and a plurality of requestors, wherein the location server is operative: ~~to receive a location query for a network user from a requestor,~~

to determine whether the requestor is authorized to receive the requested location information associated with the network user and, if so, to retrieve the location information and forward that information to the requestor;

if the requestor is unauthorized, to determine whether the network user will accept requests to release location information to unauthorized users;

if the requestor is unauthorized and the network user is determined not to accept such requests, to return a message to the requestor that the request is denied;

if the requestor is unauthorized and the wireless network user is determined to accept such requests, to send an the access request to the network user about whom the requestor seeks location information, so as to ~~confirm that~~ determine whether the network user chooses to release the location information to the requestor is authorized to receive the location information,

if the network user chooses not to release the requested location information to the unauthorized requestor, to return a message to the requestor that the request is denied; and

if the network user chooses to release the requested location information to the unauthorized user, to retrieve the network user's location information provided by the location system ~~in response to confirmation from the network user that the requestor is authorized to receive the location information,~~ and to forward the location information to the requestor.

14-16. (Cancelled)

17. (Original) The system of claim 13, wherein the location system is at least one of a handheld location system and a network-based location system.

18. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the handheld location system is a global positioning system.
19. (Original) The system of claim 17, wherein the network-based location system is one of a Wireless Access Protocol location service and a triangulation system.
20. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a mapping converter that translates the location information provided by the location system from raw form to displayable form.
21. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a global computer network in communication with the location server and the plurality of requestors, wherein the global computer network facilitates communication between the location server and the plurality of requestors.
22. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the global computer network is the Internet.
23. (Original) The system of claim 21, wherein the plurality of requestors have requestor devices with messaging capabilities and the global computer network facilitates messaging between the location server and the requestor devices.
24. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the message capabilities are one of audio-based, text-based, and graphical.
25. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the global computer network includes a graphical user interface through which the plurality of requestors can submit location queries.

26. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the requestor devices are Wireless Access Protocol compatible thin clients having thin browsers adapted to access the global computer network and to communicate with the location server.

27. (Original) The system of claim 23, wherein the requestor devices are personal computers.

28. (Original) The system of claim 13, further comprising a Public Switched Telephone Network in communication with the location server and the plurality of requestors, wherein the Public Switched Telephone Network facilitates communication between the location server and the plurality of requestors.

29. (Original) The system of claim 28, wherein the Public Switched Telephone Network includes one of an interactive voice response unit and an automatic call distributor, through which the plurality of requestors can submit location queries.

30-40. (Cancelled)